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AMENDMENTS TO LB 989

(Amendments to E & R amendments, AM7226)

1 1. Insert the following new sections:

2 "Sec. 3. Section 50-304, Revised Statutes Supplement,
3 2001, is amended to read:

4 50-304. (1) The Nebraska Futures Center Board may:

5 (a) Use studies, surveys, plans, data, and other
6 materials in the possession of any state agency. Upon request by
7 the board, a state agency or division shall make nonconfidential
8 materials available to the board;

9 (b) Conduct public hearings in furtherance of its general
10 purposes at places designated by the board, at which it may request
11 the appearance of officials of any state agency or division and
12 solicit the testimony of interested groups and the general public;

13 (c) Establish advisory committees to assist in
14 implementing the requirements of sections 50-301 to 50-309 and
15 section 5 of this act;

16 (d) With the approval of the Executive Board of the
17 Legislative Council, enter into contracts and agreements necessary
18 for the administration of sections 50-301 to 50-309 and section 5
19 of this act with any person as defined in section 49-801,
20 postsecondary educational institution, state or federal agency, or
21 entity, including agreements to provide staff on a time-limited
22 basis for specific projects;

23 (e) Solicit and accept grants, gifts, or other money from

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1 any unit of federal, state, or local government or any other
2 person; and

3 (f) Exercise any other authority or powers as granted
4 from time to time by the Executive Board of the Legislative
5 Council.

6 (2) At the request of the Nebraska Futures Center Board,
7 officials or personnel of any state agency or division, as well as
8 any other individual, may serve on advisory committees created by
9 the board.

10 (3) Members of the board shall receive no compensation as
11 members of the board or for attendance at meetings. Members of the
12 board shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses
13 as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

14 Sec. 4. Section 50-306, Revised Statutes Supplement,
15 2001, is amended to read:

16 50-306. The Nebraska Futures Center with the direction
17 of the Nebraska Futures Center Board shall:

18 (1) Establish a statewide scanning program to review
19 information sources and identify emerging issues for the state and
20 regularly provide the program's findings to the legislative and
21 executive branches;

22 (2) Prepare biennially a report on trends in the state
23 and the long-term implications of those trends. As part of the
24 report, the center shall sponsor a public forum to review the
25 findings of the trends report and obtain reactions from executive
26 branch agencies, legislative committees, postsecondary educational
27 institutions, private sector representatives, and the public. The

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1 center shall include in the report a record of the trends,
2 long-term implications, and reactions, to be completed by July 15
3 of even-numbered years, and presented to the Legislature, to the
4 Governor, and to the public. The biennial trends report shall be
5 given affirmative consideration by the agencies and divisions of
6 state government when those agencies and divisions are determining
7 budget priorities;

8 (3) Identify long-term issues significant to the state by
9 using a methodology involving a broad spectrum of citizens and
10 establish annual work plans focusing on the priority issues
11 approved by the board. Studies shall include the potential
12 long-term effects of current trends and policies and shall identify
13 future policy options;

14 (4) Periodically prepare a report on alternative futures
15 facing the state for a five-year or ten-year period or for a period
16 deemed appropriate by the board;

17 (5) Advise the Legislature and the Governor of potential
18 long-term effects of government policies;

19 (6) Develop an information process to inform the public
20 continually on long-term issues, critical trends, and alternative
21 futures;

22 (7) Develop a data base for trend identification;

23 (8) Serve as a mechanism for coordinating resources and
24 groups to focus on long-term planning;

25 (9) Solicit input from the Legislature, state agencies,
26 the Governor, postsecondary educational institutions, the private
27 sector, local government, and the public;

1 (10) Ensure that if institutions, divisions, departments,
2 or agencies of state government have responsibilities in an area of
3 policy under study, they are encouraged to comment on the potential
4 effects of government policies on critical trends and alternative
5 futures;

6 (11) Consider the comments of the institutions,
7 divisions, departments, and agencies in performing its duties under
8 sections 50-301 to 50-309 and section 5 of this act; and

9 (12) Include the official comments of the departments and
10 agencies in any report provided to the Governor and the
11 Legislature; and

12 (13) Conduct the tax system study under section 5 of this
13 act.

14 Sec. 5. (1) The Nebraska Futures Center with the
15 direction of the Nebraska Futures Center Board shall:

16 (a) Analyze the state's current tax system in terms of
17 revenue productivity and stability, efficiency, equity, simplicity
18 of administration, and effect upon the state's economy;

19 (b) Propose innovative solutions for meeting the state's
20 projected revenue needs while exploring possibilities for reducing
21 general rates;

22 (c) Identify economic activities that are either
23 beneficial or detrimental to the state's economy and that should be
24 either encouraged or discouraged through tax policy;

25 (d) Recommend changes in the state's current tax policies
26 and laws; and

27 (e) Establish criteria and a conceptual framework for

1 evaluating current and future taxes.

2 (2) The following characteristics of a good revenue
3 system shall be considered by the center in carrying out the study:

4 (a) The tax system must be fair in apportioning tax
5 burdens and consistent in its application;

6 (b) The tax system must be easy for taxpayers to
7 understand;

8 (c) The tax rates and tax structure must be perceived by
9 businesses and individual taxpayers as a reasonable cost of
10 locating in the state;

11 (d) The revenue system should have as its primary purpose
12 raising revenue from the state's overall wealth base to support
13 required basic services;

14 (e) Government must have the ability to administer and
15 enforce all parts of the recommended revenue system; and

16 (f) The revenue system must be viewed in conjunction with
17 the federal revenue system.

18 (3) The center shall make a report to the Legislature and
19 the Governor on or before December 31, 2002, and December 31, 2003.

20 Sec. 6. Section 50-309, Revised Statutes Supplement,
21 2001, is amended to read:

22 50-309. Sections 50-301 to 50-309 and section 5 of this
23 act terminate on July 1, 2006."

24 2. On page 30, line 25, strike "section 49-801.01" and
25 insert "sections 49-801.01, 50-304, 50-306, and 50-309".

26 3. Renumber the remaining sections and correct internal
27 references accordingly.